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the diction is often careless. Perhaps it is this carelessness that leads the author to say (p. 43) that by 1765 the colonies had "autonomous governments with parliaments of their own co-ordinate with the British Parliament," a statement which is contradicted on pages 202, 311, and 395, where it is variously explained that the Parliament was legally supreme "over both realm and colonies."

There is much to praise and little to find fault with in this volume. Dr. Root has searched widely through the sources with the utmost care, and he has made a solid and notable contribution to little known period.

CHAS. W. RAMSDELL.

An Artillery Officer in the Mexican War, 1846-7. Letters of Robert Anderson, Captain 3d Artillery, U. S. A. With a Prefatory Word by his daughter, Eha Anderson Lawton. (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1911. Pp. xvi, 339.)

This is a volume of the letters of Captain Robert Anderson to his wife. The first letter is dated at Fort Brook, Florida, December 28, 1846, and the last from Mexico City, October 28, 1847. The writer participated in the capture of Vera Cruz, the battle of Cerro Gordo, and the battle of Molino del Rey, and was with the army at the battle of Churubusco, but was kept out of that engagement by a severe attack of malaria. He was disabled in the battle of Molino del Rey, and was invalided home in October. Covering as they do practically the whole of the southern campaign, one expects these letters to cast valuable side lights on General Scott's invasion of Mexico, but the expectation is disappointed. They are interesting human documents, and inspire abundant respect for the character of the writer; they occasionally contain excellent descriptions of the towns along the route from Vera Cruz to Mexico; but they are singularly devoid of material for the historian. The reason for this is partly explained by the writer: "The newspapers give you so regularly and constantly the last news from the Army, that it is hardly worth while for me to chronicle events as they transpire, or to detail rumors as they fly." Again, "I, from my position, am debarred from all knowledge of the secret plans (if they have any) of our Commanders." Trist is mentioned in several of the letters, but never a word is said of his relations with General Scott. Captain An-

derson was a personal friend of Scott's, and had great admiration for his military qualities. The book is without an index, but this is less serious than would be the case if the letters were of greater historical importance. E. C. B.

The Story of My Life, or More Than Half a Century as I Have Lived it and Seen it Lived. By G. C. Rankin, D. D. (Dallas: 1912. 12mo, Pp. 356, Vol. I.)

This volume covers the life of Dr. Rankin down to the time of his election as editor of the *Texas Christian Advocate*, fourteen years ago. Previous to that election he had spent four years at Shearn Church, Houston, and two years at First Church, Dallas. The volume, therefore, covers only a small portion of his activity in Texas. The author promises another volume, the material for which has already been accumulated but is too warm to hand out. "In that second and final volume there will be something racy and rare in the literature of the Lone Star State."

The present volume "is not technically an autobiography, for it deals with many persons and incidents outside of myself." "I have grouped certain periods and certain incidents around myself and told the simple story without much accuracy of chronology." These sentences indicate somewhat the plan of the book. The first half of the volume is superior to the second half both as regards choice of subject matter and treatment. The story of his childhood, the courage with which the fatherless boy faced the world, the privations he endured to obtain an education—the account of his kind grandmother, of his own mother's fortitude, of the helpfulness of friends—the pictures of life in his native community, of the scenery of East Tennessee and of the character and originality of the leaders in that region—all these are well told and will win the sympathy and admiration of his readers, young and old.

The second half of the volume is different. The plan of the book is not adapted to the subject matter treated; as a result, the narrative is fragmentary; the style becomes repetitive, digressive, and perfunctory. The author's statements in the Foreword, "I owe nothing to fortune, to kindred or good luck" and "I have had to become, from sheer necessity, the architect of my own position